

LEAd-ME Council Meeting

March 1, 2006

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Karen Casey (Office of MaineCare), Al May (ME-CDC/EOHP/CLPPP), Ginger Jordan-Hillier (ME DEP), Sandra Roseberry (EHSC), Ronda Jones (Ptld. Lead-Safe Housing Prgr.), Jodie Widor (MMC/ Kids Run Better Unleaded Prgr.), Pam Dietz, MD (MMC/ KRBU), Tina Bernier (ME-CDC/ CLPPP), Anna Moorman (MMC/ KRBU), Naomi Mermin (GreenWorks Maine), Bob Dodd (Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities), Yvette Bouttenot (City of Lewiston), Carole Cifrino (ME DEP), Valerie Heal (Maine Headstart Health Coordinators group), MaryAnn Amrich (ME-CDC/ CLPPP), Amy Bouchard (Facilitator/ Muskie School)

Observers: Jon Doyle (National Paint and Coatings Association), Andy Smith (ME-CDC Occupational and Environmental Health Programs)

1. Announcements

MaryAnn:

- CDC grant application for the next 5-year grant cycle was submitted 2/21/06 – we expect an announcement by June
- RI recently announced a decision in their lawsuit against 4 paint manufacturers. 3 of the manufacturers were found guilty of creating a “public nuisance.” The manufacturers will be required to abate a percentage of the lead contaminated units in Rhode Island. The court has not yet assigned a dollar amount to the decision.

Bob:

- The Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities (CESC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the governor on 1/20/06. A 9-unit building in Bath was used to showcase the abatement work completed by CESC using a combination of federal and private funds. CESC has entered into a partnership with the Maine Apartment Owners and Managers Association (MAOMA) on a proactive approach to creating lead-safe units in Maine. Bob is presenting to MAOMA 3/15/06.

Naomi:

- GreenWorks Maine is working on a Smoke-Free Maine campaign in partnership with Maine landlords to promote smoke-free rental units. This campaign could serve as a model for landlord partnerships in Maine.

Carole:

- A new Maine law went into effect 1/18/06 that requires TV and computer monitors to be recycled. The manufacturer pays the cost of recycling. TV and computer monitors are known to contain high amounts of lead.

Ginger:

- There is a national movement to replace leaded wheel weights with lead-free substitutes. Michigan has already moved to lead-free products. The Maine State Fleet should begin converting to lead-free wheel weights for state cars in July. Ginger is also working DOT and DOE (school buses) to promote conversion to lead-free products. Ginger cited a study in Albuquerque which found that approximately 13% of all wheel weights fall off. The Maine DOT alone goes through approximately 1 million tires each year.
- The Governor's Executive Order on Environmental Issues includes reference to lead.
- LD 518: An Act to Regulate Lead-Smart Renovators did not pass. The EPA Renovation & Remodeling Rule, posted for comment, should cover the same issues.
- A bill to license contractors also did not pass. Of note is a current state law that requires contractors to enter into a contract if the work exceeds \$3,000. The AG website has a model contract.

**2. Presentation: Denise deVaun
Deputy Director: CLEARCorps**

CLEARCorps is proposing to initiate a project that would place 6 volunteers in Maine. The volunteers, recruited from local Maine communities, would receive an education stipend, a childcare stipend and a living stipend, totally \$15,000 annually. The National Paint and Coatings Association is offering to cover the local portion of the volunteer expenses.

The volunteers are assigned to state, local government or CBO groups to work with. The sponsoring organization provides oversight, training and coordination of the volunteer efforts. National CLEARCorps coordinators conduct monthly conference calls with the volunteers to provide support and direction. Currently, most of CLEARCorps projects are located in urban settings. Michigan is the only rural CLEARCorps site. CLEARCorps is interested in expanding into other rural states like Maine.

CLEARCorps is primarily funded by AmeriCorps and uses the AmeriCorps model. There are 3 models for CLEARCorps volunteer activities:

1. Education & outreach: this uses a family-centered approach in high-risk communities. Volunteers sometimes work around community events.
2. Remediation efforts: the volunteers provide cleaning and/or interim controls for families in high-risk housing.
3. The volunteers work on community-based screening program.

CLEARCorps is moving towards a "healthy homes" model. Every CLEARCorps site is involved with local organizations such as CAP agencies and LEAd-ME. Some CLEARCorps volunteers work with local schools. Jr. High and High School students do service learning projects around lead education in the community. One of the groups produced a video called "Jimmy Gets Better." Denise played the video for the LEAd-ME members.

3. Q & A Session

Q: What are the costs to the sponsoring agency?

\$15,000 per volunteer – the local community agency provides the match, including the travel costs to an annual conference. In Maine, the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) has offered to cover the costs of the community match.

Q: How many volunteers would Maine get?

Maine is eligible for up to 6 volunteers.

Q: Where do the volunteers come from?

Maine decides who the sponsoring site is; the sponsoring site picks the volunteers. CLEARCorps pays two-thirds of the costs; the sponsoring site pays the remaining one-third. The sponsoring agency pays all training and travel costs.

Q: Where do CLEARCorps funds come from?

CNCS-AmeriCorps is the largest funder. The NPCA contributes \$500,000 per year. CLEARCorps is working with Congress to get state earmarks through CDC.

Q: Who pays for the benefits – health insurance, etc.?

The sponsoring agency is responsible for these costs. HUD LEAP grants support volunteers in some communities.

Q: How do you decide where to go?

In most cases, CLEARCorps is invited by an interested community.

Q: What are the host costs?

The \$15,000 match. Denise was unsure about coverage for some of the other costs such as health insurance and training. She will check with CLEARCorps Headquarters and get back to us.

Q: Do volunteers work full or part time?

Volunteers can choose to work either full or part time. Often the volunteers are recently graduated college students or adults just getting back into the workforce. The first 6 months is usually spent in training.

Q: Does this need to be a new program or can it be an add-on to an existing program?

This is usually an addition to an existing program.

Q: What is the extent of the commitment?

Two years.

4. Internal Discussion on CLEARCorps Presentation

- One member raised the issue that Jon Doyle presented CLEARCorps to the Health and Human Services Committee as an alternative to fee-on-paint law if the law is repealed.
- Mike Belliveau apparently suggested an oversight committee, although he was not present at this meeting.
- Some members compared this offer to using tobacco settlement funds for public health activities.
- DEP has Americorps volunteers. Carole will research how that works at DEP.
- CESC has made a national decision to disassociate from CLEARCorps because of the NPCA involvement.
- Suggestion was made to place volunteers in CAP agencies under MSHA, if the decision is made to initiate a CLEARCorps program in Maine. MaryAnn will contact Bill Jenkins and Kimberly Weed at MSHA to discuss.

No final decision was made about a CLEARCorps program in Maine.

Next LEAd-ME Council Meeting:

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

9:00am – 12noon

Muskie Building, Room TBA